Hoover disciplined agents as Oswald not on FBI list

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The late J. Edgar Hoover disciplined 17 FBI employees for not having Lee Harvey Oswald on a list of subversives when John F. Kennedy was assassinated, a former FBI official testified Wednesday.

But former FBI inspector James H. Gale told the House assassinations committee that if Oswald had been on the attorney general's list of subversives, which existed at the time, "I don't believe it would have prevented the assassination.

"If we felt they (FBI deficiencies) would have played any part in that, believe me the disciplinary action would have been much stronger," he testified.

Gale explained that the subversives list was limited to those who could have been rounded up in a national emergency. Thus, he asserted, the list would not have routinely called Oswald's activities to the attention of the Secret Service.

"If the language means anything, it certainly included a character like Oswald," Gale said Hoover scrawled across his report. Hoover apparently was referring to provisions in the law authorizing maintenance of the subversives list.